

Coins

Going, going: Carson City silver dollars heading for the last roundup of sales

By Roger Boye

COIN COLLECTORS have just 11 more days to participate in Uncle Sam's final sale of silver dollars minted in Carson City, Nev.

The government's General Services Administration (GSA) is selling nearly 55,000 rare coins dated 1880, 1881, and 1885 in a national mail auction, with a minimum bid price of \$180 per dollar.

Although the minimum price is a fair market value for each coin, the GSA may have trouble selling all the silver dollars because of the bad publicity it received from the February sale of 900,000 Carson City coins.

Nearly 150,000 collectors — almost half of the persons who sent in orders — received no coins in the earlier sale, and many angry collectors had to wait nearly four months to get their money back.

The GSA says service should improve in the final sale. For a bid form, check the GSA advertisements in last Monday's edition of the Wall Street Journal, or in last week's issues of Coin World or Numismatic News.

The GSA must receive bids in San

Francisco by noon July 31.

AN INFLUENTIAL congressman has suggested that the government withdraw all Susan B. Anthony dollars from circulation and lock them in vaults for 100 years.

"Perhaps we can learn a lesson from the Carson City silver dollar sale," said U.S. Rep. Frank Annunzio (D., Ill.), during a humorous discussion with other lawmakers.

"Thousands of people have been willing to pay \$65 to get just one Carson City dollar coin made in the 1800s," he said, referring to the GSA's February sale.

If the Susan B. Anthony coins were put in storage, Americans of the 21st Century might be willing to pay \$65 or more to get just one Anthony coin, he reasoned.

Annunzio is chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, which considers coinage legislation.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of the Mint has temporarily suspended production of the Anthony dollar because so few of the coins are being used in circulation.